SOFT TARGETS

FOR BLACK GIRLS

He was arrested and detained
for nailing Barbie doll heads
to telephone poles.

He was beaten
while in custody, accused
of defacing public property.

After healing, he resumed
his irreverent campaign,
this outlawed spook terrorist
continued hammering horse nails

through Barbie heads
and setting them aflame.

Barbie never told Black girls
they are beautiful.

She never acknowledged
their breathtaking Negritude.

She never told them
to possess their own souls.

They were merely shadows
clutching the edges of her mirror.

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Barbie never told Black girls
they are beautiful,

not in the ghetto evenings
after double dutch,

nor in the integrated suburbs,
after ballet class.